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WASHINGTON POST 13 FEB 1976

Kissinger Hits Leaks of Pike Report

By Murrey Marder
Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger angrily charged yesterday that leaks of a House intelligence committee report strongly criticizing him amount to "a new version of McCarthyism."

President Ford, simultaneously, volunteered to House Speaker Carl Albert "the full resources and services of the executive branch" to track down the leaks. The Ford administration wants to underscore its suspicion that the leaks came from Congress, which has been put on the defensive in the uproar over leaks of intelligence information.

Kissinger, in an unusually hoarse and tense voice, told a news conference at the State Department:

"I believe that the misuse of highly classified information in a tendentious, misleading and totally irresponsible fashion must do damage to the foreign policy of the United States, and has already done damage to the foreign policy of the United States."

When Kissinger was asked if attacks on him could affect the conduct of foreign policy enough to cause him to step down, he indicated no current inclination to do so, but he said:

"If I should conclude that it is in the interest of American foreign policy, I would step down. But what one also has to consider is whether the style of public debate should be that...any public officer can be destroyed by the most irresponsible and flagrant charges, and that then the argument should be made that the (his) effectiveness is affected, because totally irresponsible and essentially untrue charges are made."

Kissinger's indignation, and the White House offer to investigate leaks, followed publication by The Village Voice, a New York weekly tabloid newspaper, of a 24-page supplement containing large portions of the report by the committee headed by Rep. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.). The House last month voted to block publication of the report when administration officials said disclosure would jeopardize national security.

Pike has suggested that the leak may be part of an administration attempt to embarrass his intelligence committee, whose life has expired.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said, "The President is confident that the information in The Village Voice... did not come out of the executive branch," and "is disposed to believe that it came from Congress — all of the leaks, that is."

Nessen denied that the offer to Albert, made in a morning telephone call from Max L. Friedersdorf, head of the White House congressional liaison staff, to an Albert aide, was an attempt to put "pressure" on the Speaker.

He said Mr. Ford was only offering help because the leak to The Village Voice was a "violation" of "the solemn agreement" between the White House and the Pike committee, and also "flies in the face of the overwhelming vote of the House" not to publish the report.

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A spokesman said Albert would have "no comment" on the White House probe offer cited by Nessen.

The Village Voice version of the report, entitled "The CIA Report The President Doesn't Want You to Read," charged that there were repeated U.S. intelligence failures in Vietnam; in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war; in the U.S. global military alert against the Soviet Union at the end of that war; in the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus, in the 1974 Portuguese coup, and in other instances.

Kissinger was the central, personal target of the report.

He was accused of selling out the Kurdish rebellion led by Gen. Mustapha Barzani, with great loss of life, as part of a deal between Iran and Iraq. Kissinger also was charged with "a passion for secrecy" in efforts to "control dissemination and analysis of data" inside the bureaucracy, and with making "comments...at variance with the facts" about the handling of suspected Soviet violations of the nuclear strategic arms accords of 1972.

In addition to The Village Voice disclosure, Kissinger also was indignant yesterday about a new round of charges from New York Times columnist William Safire charging Kissinger with amorally dismissing "the Ford administration's betrayal of an ally" in the aborted Kurdish revolt.

Kissinger did not respond with specifics to any of the broad charges yesterday.

He said "it is extremely difficult to reply to charges in a leaked document," and

who exploited the Reds in government hunt in the early 1950s.

When asked if the United States did "encourage the Kurds to expect our support and then suddenly double-cross them" in early 1975, Kissinger replied:

"That is a total falsehood. But it is impossible in these covert operations to explain the truth without creating even more difficulties..."

Asked if he received "a gift" from Kurdish leader Barzani — which has been previously

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